

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN JO 03067 122243Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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P R 122205Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7800

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 3067

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, CU, VE, CO

SUBJECT: CUBAN SANCTIONS

REF: (A) SAN JOSE 3053 (B) CARACAS 7656 (C) MCLEAN/LANE

TELECON 8/10

1. SAN JOSE PRESS FRIDAY AFTERNOON AND SATURDAY CARRIED AP REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON SUGGESTING THAT NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION MIGHT TAKE EARLY ACTION TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH CUBA. REPORT SAID PRESIDENT FORD HAD "IMPLICITLY" EXPRESSED HIS DESIRE FOR MORE HARMONIOUS RELATIONS WITH CASTRO. UNIDENTIFIED SOURCES IN STATE DEPARTMENT

WERE ALLEGED TO HAVE SUGGESTED THAT THIS "COULD BE THE GREATEST CHANGE FORD INTRODUCES IMMEDIATELY IN US FOREIGN POLICY". OTHER STATE DEPARTMENT SOURCES, HOWEVER, REPORTEDLY SPOKE OF A "GRADUAL CHANGE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE OAS."

2. SATURDAY LA REPUBLICA REPORTED STATEMENT BY FONMIN FACIO ON PREVIOUS DAY TO EFFECT THAT THESE PRESS REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON INDICATE THAT USG WILL NOT OPPOSE AND INDEED MAY SUPPORT MOVES TO REVIEW CUBAN SANCTIONS IN OAS AS PROPOSED BY COSTA RICA. WITH RESPECT TO OTHER PRESS REPORTS THAT COSTA RICA AND VENEZUELA HAVE POSTPONED SUCH

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PAGE 02 SAN JO 03067 122243Z

MOVES UNTIL NOVEMBER OR LATER IN RESPONSE TO A VISIT BY

AMBASSADOR MAILLIARD, FACIO IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT "WE HAVE NOT SAID THAT WE WILL NOT ACCEPT NOR THAT WE WILL ACCEPT INDEFINITELY THE POSTPONEMENT" OF OAS ACTION. LATER HE REPORTEDLY SAID IN A BROADER CONTEXT THAT "WE DON'T WANT THE REVIEW OF WHETHER THE SANCTIONS SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT BE LIFTED TO BE POSTPONED FURTHER."

3. PURSUANT REF TELCON (C), I CALLED FACIO SATURDAY AFTERNOON TO TELL HIM THAT THE DEPARTMENT KNEW OF NO SPECIFIC NEW STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT ON CUBA, AND STRESSED LATTER'S ASSURANCES OF CONTINUITY IN US FOREIGN POLICY. I SAID THAT IT CONTINUES TO BE OUR DESIRE THAT ANY OAS MEETING ON CUBA BE DELAYED UNTIL AFTER NOVEMBER ELECTIONS, AND THAT WE WILL KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH. FACIO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION AND SPECIFICALLY SAID THAT THIS TIMETABLE WAS STILL ACCEPTABLE TO HIM.

4. COMMENT. FACIO'S STATEMENTS TO PRESS ARE NOT SURPRISING IN VIEW OF EARLY WIRE SERVICE REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON AND QUESTIONS RAISED ABOUT MAILLIARD VISIT. I AM SATISFIED THAT HE WILL STICK WITH OUR TIMETABLE PROVIDED OTHER OAS MEMBERS DO SO.
LANE

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